

CONGRESSMAN **JESSE L. JACKSON JR.**
PROUDLY SERVING THE 2nd DISTRICT OF ILL.

For Immediate Release
Edmonds

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Wednesday, June 3, 2008
225-0773

(202)

CONGRESSMAN JACKSON MOURNS PASSING OF KOKO TAYLOR

Washington, D.C. -- Congressman Jackson released the following statement about the passing of blues legend Koko Taylor. Ms. Taylor resided in the Chicago south suburban community of Country Club Hills.

"Tonight, our country has lost a legend in Koko Taylor. The Queen of Blues has gone home to the eternal Kingdom.

"I extend my deepest sympathy and condolences to her family, friends and fans from around the globe. We all will miss this bright, fiery star and mourn her passing.

"For almost 50 years, Koko Taylor lifted millions with the power of her voice and talent. Her foot-stomping, soul-stirring, barn-burnin' performances rocked clubs, festivals and concert halls all over the world. Koko Taylor was the blues, Chicago-style.

"During her long, storied career, Ms. Taylor won every award the blues world could offer, including 25 Blues Music Awards and a Grammy. In 1999, she was inducted into the Blues Foundation's Hall of Fame. In 2004, I was honored to present her with the coveted National Heritage Fellowship Award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

"Born on a sharecropper's farm outside Memphis, Koko and her husband made Chicago's South Side their home. She was a wonder. A treasure. A legend -- dubbed 'one of the greatest female singers in R&B history.'

"We say goodbye to Koko Taylor at age 80. But, her music and legacy will live on."

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